

Message Text

SECRET

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 MC-02 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

/060 W

----- 078145

O R 180514Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5941

INFO CINCPAC

CINCPAC/PA/LNO

COMUSMACTHAI

SECDEF

S E C R E T BANGKOK 11568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MILI, TH

SUBJECT: FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND

REF: (A) STATE 137759; (B) SECDEF DTG 172356Z JUN 75;
(C) BANGKOK 11360; (D) STATE 141766

1. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF CIRCUMSTANCES
DICTATING UNUSUAL HANDLING OF PRESS RELEASE IN
CONNECTION WITH LATEST FORCE REDUCTION.

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF A,
EMBASSY ON JUNE 16 INFORMALLY PROVIDED DRAWDOWN INFORMA-
TION TO KRIANGSAK AS REPORTED REF C. WE POINTED OUT
DESIRABILITY OF COMPLETING CONSULTATION AS QUICKLY
AS POSSIBLE, GIVEN NARROW TIME FRAME TO CARRY OUT
REDUCTIONS. WE NONETHELESS SHARED DEPARTMENT'S
EXPECTATIONS (PARA 3, REF A) THAT THAI WOULD WISH TO
HOLD COMMITTED MEETING AND THAT THIS PROCESS MIGHT
TAKE A DAY OR TWO.

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3. CONTRARY TO THESE EXPECTATIONS, HOWEVER, KRIANGSAK ADVISED US SAME DAY, JUNE 16, THAT HE WISHED RECEIVE DETAILS FORMALLY IN LETTER FROM EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY AND WOULD MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT UPON RECEIPT. IN SUPPLYING THIS INFORMATION, WE CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT ALSO FURNISH PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE. IF WE HAD NOT DONE SO, KRIANGSAK WOULD HAVE PREPARED HIS OWN PRESS RELEASE, PROBABLY WITHOUT COORDINATION WITH US. WE REPORTED OUR INTENT TO DO THIS TO DEPARTMENT ON MONDAY, JUNE 16 (REF C).

4. WE SENT LETTER AND PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING MORNING, JUNE 17. IN DRAFTING PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE, WE USED TEXT PROPOSED TO CINCPAC AND WASHINGTON AGENCIES ON JUNE 12 AND CONCURRED IN BY CINCPAC ON JUNE 13. WE MODIFIED THIS TEXT TO REMOVE SPECIFIC NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH EACH AIRCRAFT TYPE.

5. SHORTLY AFTER OUR LETTER AND ENCLOSED TEXT REACHED SUPREME COMMAND ON JUNE 17, WE LEARNED FROM WIRE SERVICES THAT "DOD SOURCE" HAD REVEALED HIGHLIGHTS OF DRAWDOWN TO PRESS IN WASHINGTON. STORY BASED ON THIS DOD SOURCE RAN IN LOCAL PRESS THIS MORNING, WHERE IT WAS HEADLINED "US MAY SPEED UP WITHDRAWAL". UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO ASK THAI TO WITHHOLD ANNOUNCEMENT HERE. INDEED, IT IS IN OUR INTEREST THAT ANNOUNCEMENT BE MADE SOONEST SO AS TO OFFSET IMPRESSION, BASED ON DOD SOURCE, THAT US IS ACCELERATING DRAWDOWNS.

6. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT MATTER BE LEFT WHERE IT IS. PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE IN HANDS OF SUPREME COMMAND IN NO WAY PREJUDICES EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT OF 13TH ADVON-17 AIR DIVISION QUESTION, WHICH WE CONTINUE TO HOPE WILL BE SETTLED IN FAVOR OF RETAINING NOMENCLATURE OF 13TH ADVON. WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

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